

NEWS



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CORRECTIONS AGENCY REORGANIZES, BECOMES CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION

Commitment to public and employee safety remains paramount

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) became official today, reorganized under Secretary Roderick Q. Hickman who headed the former Youth & Adult Correctional Agency (YACA).

Hickman will oversee the consolidated operations of the former YACA Departments and boards including; California Department of Corrections (CDC), the California Youth Authority (CYA), the Board of Prison Terms (BPT), the Board of Corrections (BOC), the Commission on Correctional Peace Officers Standards and Training (CPOST), the Youthful Offender Parole Board (YOPB), and the Prison Industry Authority (PIA).

Legislation sponsored by Sen. Gloria Romero authorized the new organization, which was signed into law on May 10, 2005 by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. The new CDCR is aligned and consolidated by function into three divisions: Adult Operations, Adult Programs, and Juvenile Justice.

The reorganization is one of the most comprehensive and far-reaching reforms in California history, and involves more than 54,000 employees statewide. The organization oversees more than 280,000 adult and youth offenders in custody or on parole in 33 adult prisons, and eight youth facilities.

"Our goals were to make the organization more effective, efficient and accountable to the taxpayers and residents of California," Hickman said. "While these months have been tumultuous, challenging and productive, the new organization reaffirms our commitment to restore public confidence in California's correctional system."

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Along with Hickman, Governor Schwarzenegger appointed the following people as the top management of the new organizations: Jeanne Woodford as undersecretary, Joseph McGrath as chief deputy secretary for adult operations and Bernard Warner as chief deputy secretary for juvenile justice. Please see the attached biographies for further information on these individuals.

California's youth and adult correctional system was created more than one-quarter century ago, but has been plagued by an erosion of legislative and public confidence. The Administration recognized the need for change and appointed the Independent Review Panel (IRP), which made more than 260 recommendations and suggestions. At the same time, YACA's leadership began to develop a strategic plan to address the challenges that have plagued the system. It consulted with experts in organizational structure, management design, correctional operations, and organizational effectiveness to develop the plan.

"We took the panel's recommendations and developed a strategic plan aimed at rectifying this lack of confidence," said Hickman, who has overseen the efforts to plan and deliver this new approach to adult and juvenile corrections in California. "While the ongoing work of this dramatic transition continues beyond today, we remain committed to public safety and being responsive to the residents of California."

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